

Senator the Hon. Jan McLucas



Senator for Queensland

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers

Jan lives in Cairns, and has lived in North Queensland for most of her life. She trained as a primary teacher at Townsville College of Advanced Education (now James Cook Uni), where she became active in the student union. She has taught at various towns in North Queensland and recalls those ten years teaching young children as extremely satisfying as it is quality education that she sees as fundamentals to fulfilment of potential and the basis for making contribution to society. Jan has been active in the Queensland Teachers Union and served as Secretary of the Cairns and District Provincial Trades and Labor Council in the late 1980s.

In 1995 she became a Councillor of Cairns City Council where she dedicated her energies toward the environment sector, child care services and indigenous communities in Cairns, Cape York and the Torres Strait to promote community understanding of reconciliation and native title.

Jan became a Senator on 1 July 1999, and has aimed to lift the profile of issues affecting North Queensland. These include telecommunications service levels, environmental sustainability, horticultural marketing practices, economic development and indigenous governance.

Jan is well known for her previous role as Chair of the Senate Community Affairs References Committee and has chaired two Select Committee Inquiries into Medicare and more recently, the ground-breaking Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care. Other inquiries include examination of the Tobacco Advertising Regime and the current Aged Care service delivery. Jan was seconded to the Rural, Regional Affairs and Transport Inquiry for the Inquiry into BioSecurity Australia's Import Risk Assessment Process for Bananas given the importance of that industry to North Queensland. As a member of the Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs, her policy making and consultation skills are helping shape a post-ATSIC model of governance for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Jan was Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing from 2007-2009, she was then appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers. In the March 2012 reshuffle, she took on the additional responsibility of Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.